

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SPECIES OF CLAPPER RAIL FROM YUCATAN.
BY E. W. NELSON.

During a recent examination of the series of Mexican birds in the Field Columbian Museum I found a single specimen of a new species of clapper rail from the north coast of Yucatan. I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. C. B. Cory, Curator of Birds in this museum for the opportunity to describe the species. My thanks are also due Mr. Ned Dearborn, Assistant Curator of Birds, for his cordial assistance during my recent examination of the collection in his charge.

***Rallus pallidus* sp. nov.**

YUCATAN RAIL.

Type from Rio Lagartos, Yucatan, Mexico. No. 13,206, ♀ ad. Field Columbian Museum. April 15, 1893. W. W. Brown.

Distribution.—North coast of Yucatan, and probably of Campeche, Mexico.

Specific characters.—Most like *Rallus crepitans waynei* but bill shorter and slenderer; breast and outer side of wings more reddish; streaks of gray and brown on upperparts more strongly contrasted.

Description of type.—Top of head and neck bistre brown; feathers of back, scapulars, tertials, rump and upper tail coverts olivaceous bistre brown, broadly edged with ashy gray producing strongly marked streaks of gray and brown; upper surface of primaries and secondaries nearly Isabella color with a wash of cinnamon; wing coverts decidedly more cinnamon than primaries and sparingly marked with transverse bars of white; upper surface of tail feathers bistre brown edged with hair brown;

lower eyelid and supraloral stripe from base of bill to top of orbit white; lores, sides of head below and back of eyes, down to a little below line of gape, plumbeous with a brownish wash on lores; chin and throat pure white (this area extending up nearly to line of gape but indistinctly suffused with buffy along upper and posterior borders); sides of neck olivaceous bistre brown streaked with grayish and shading through grayish brown into dingy cinnamon washed with dull gray along median line; breast light cinnamon rufous; sides of body and flanks varying from olive brown to dark hair brown strongly marked with transverse white bars; under tail coverts white with narrow shaft streaks of dusky brown.

Measurements.—Wing, 142; tail, 60; culmen, 53; tarsus, 51.

Remarks.—This rail is most like *Rallus crepitans waynei*, especially on the underparts, but the breast and under side of the neck are redder and the dusky bars on the flanks are slightly darker. The upperparts differ more, as the top of the head and neck are lighter brown and the gray and brown streaks on the back are much more strongly contrasted. It is much paler and more brightly colored than *Rallus l. caribæus*; the pure white throat, cinnamon rufous breast and strongly contrasted gray and brown stripes on the back being very distinctive.

From the pale colors of this bird it is probable that it will be found limited to the arid coast region of the peninsula of Yucatan though it may range still farther north along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico. The type is the only specimen I have seen.